

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants submit this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment in support of the Preliminary Amendment and Request for Continued Examination filed with the Office on January 22, 2009, and incorporate the January 22, 2009 Preliminary Amendment and Request for Continued Examination by reference herein. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 20 to more clearly define the invention, and added new claims claims 22 and 23. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification, for example, paragraphs [0075]-[0077] of the published application, Example 3 at paragraphs [0102]-[0105], and Figures 14-15. Accordingly, these claims do not introduce new matter.

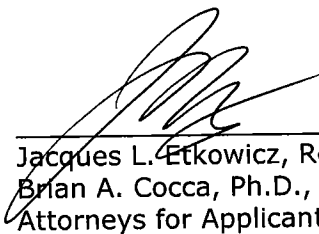
In the Advisory Action mailed January 16, 2009, the Office remarked that the Rule 132 Declaration of Dr. Peter Schwind submitted on December 22, 2008 was not on point because it was directed to an unclaimed embodiment. Applicants disagree that this embodiment is not claimed.

Independent claims 1 and 20 are not limited to the number of indicator zones or absorption regions. These claims recite that the indicator zones are located between the application zone and the at least one absorption region. Accordingly, claims 1 and 20 encompass the possibility of a central application zone and two or more absorption regions. A device configured with an application zone positioned between two or more groups of indicator zones, as referenced in paragraph 7 of Dr. Schwind's Declaration is therefore within the scope of the claims. To even more clearly show how claims 1 and 20 as filed and as amended encompass the device described in Dr. Schwind's Declaration, Applicants present new dependent claims 22 and 23. The Office is therefore incorrect in its assertion that Dr. Schwind's Declaration was not on point.

Applicants request entry of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the amendments, remarks, and Declaration submitted herewith and with the January 22, 2009 Request for Continued Examination. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if she believes a telephonic interview will further advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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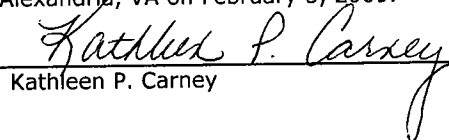
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Date: February 5, 2009

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA on February 5, 2009.



Kathleen P. Carney